

Planet Earth and COP-26, 31st October to 12th November 2021



As the 26th United Nations Conference of the Parties takes place in Glasgow, we are reading and hearing news about the plans of some big 'important' countries, and the plight of some small 'unimportant' countries.

Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, a poet and activist, is at COP-26 as a climate envoy for the Republic of the Marshall Islands – a sprawling nation of more than 1,200 low-lying atolls and islands in the Pacific Ocean. She has described how it feels to explain the impact of climate change on her nation, how frightening it is when the sea level keeps rising each year.

And are the big countries concerned for her and her nation? Your guess is as good as mine, but the leaders of some of the big 'important' countries are not even at the Conference. The Bible story of The Good Samaritan comes to mind, with the question, "Who is my neighbour?" I'm guessing those leaders couldn't care less about the Marshall Islands.

This attitude of demanding their right to have what they want (and what they think they deserve), is similar to a character in William Shakespeare's play 'The Merchant of Venice' who was owed a debt by 'the merchant'. He demanded payment according to the contract; this leads to the famous quotation, "The quality of mercy is not strain'd; it droppeth, as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath: it is twice bless'd; it blesseth him that gives, and him that takes . . . we do pray for mercy; and that same prayer doth teach us all to render the deeds of mercy." (Act 4, scene 1)

What prayer was Shakespeare referring to? Not the prayer known as 'The Lord's Prayer' because of the word 'same'. Shylock, a Jew, would take no notice of something in the New Testament. But he and the other characters (Christians) did read the book called Ecclesiasticus (in the Apocrypha), "If someone has no mercy towards another like himself, can he then seek pardon for his own sins?" See chapter 28 verses 2-4. (The Apocrypha is sometimes printed between the Old and New Testaments.)

At the Conference, there are representatives from about 200 countries. Her Majesty the Queen will not be in Glasgow because she is not well enough. In a video message, she urges leaders to achieve true statesmanship and create a safer, stabler future for the planet; they should rise above the politics of the moment. What can we ourselves do? It is not for me to tell others, but each one of us must do something; and we can pray. Below is a prayer Helen used in our church service on the first day of the Conference.

Father God, we pray for the world in which we live. We particularly pray for the Climate Change Conference, COP-26. Please guide the leaders of the nations as they meet together. May there be a spirit of urgency and determination to work together for the future of this planet. May words be matched with actions. Thank You for Your beautiful and fragile world. Please help us all to look after it, looking forward to that time when You create a new heaven and a new earth, where You will dwell and all that is wrong will be put right.

with every blessing, Bob

NOVEMBER CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 3rd November

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 7th November (3rd Sunday before Advent)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Celebration



Wednesday 10th November

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th November (Remembrance Sunday)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday 17th November

10.00am Holy Communion



Sunday 21st November (Christ the King)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

3.00pm Service of Remembrance and Hope

We remember

The Somme, Dunkirk and Passchendaele
Cause us to think of times of war,
When men and boys went bravely out
They fought, some died and returned no more.

They gave their all that we should live,
We never should forget such cost,
Remembering with thankful hearts
Our freedom gained as lives were lost.

Another Man gave up His life,
Another war, another fight,
With all mankind held fast in chains
As darkness fell as black as night.

The cost was high, a sinless life
To break the chains and set us free,
The Lamb of God on Calvary's cross
Paid that price for you, for me.

By Megan Carter

Wednesday 24th November

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th November (1st Sunday of Advent)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion



November



Prayer for November

Father,

In these short, dark days of November, with all the uncertainties and complications in our new Covid 19 landscape, help us to feel the reassurance of Your presence in the gift of each new day. Help us to be guided through the darkness by Your light – by Jesus, who will never leave us or forsake us.

In His name – the name above pandemics and shortages and rising bills and all anxieties – we pray.
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

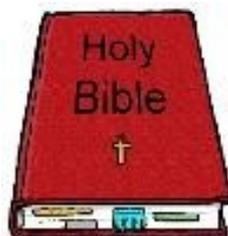
BIBLE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

7th November

Leviticus 25: 1-7
Matthew 5: 1-12

14th November

Hebrews 10:11-25
Mark 13:1-8

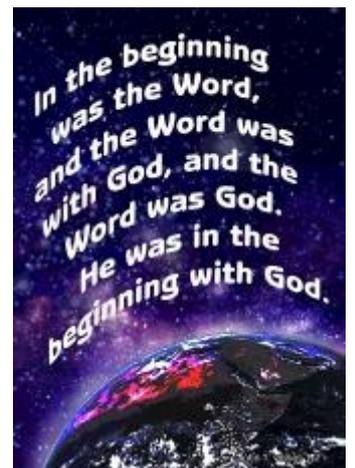


21st November

Revelation 1: 4b-8
John 18: 33-37

28th November

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13
Luke 21: 25-36



CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Wednesday 1st December

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 5th December (2nd Sunday of Advent)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Celebration

Wednesday 8th December

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th December (3rd Sunday of Advent)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday 15th December

10.00am Holy Communion

Friday 17th December (Christingle)

6.00pm for 6.30pm start

Sunday 19th December (4th Sunday of Advent)

8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

4.00pm 9 Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 22nd December

10.00am Holy Communion

Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

11.30pm Holy Communion

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)

8.45am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th December

NO SERVICES

Wednesday 29th December

NO SERVICE



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

November Birthdays



Congratulations to Kirsty Lowe who celebrates her birthday on **7th November**, and to Timothy Aylett who celebrates his birthday on **10th November**, to David Walker who celebrates his birthday on **24th**

November, and to Lynne Corker who celebrates her birthday on **25th November**, and to Sandra Fisher and Barbara Done who celebrates their birthday on **28th November** and to Norah Gamon who celebrates her birthday on **30th November**.

Operation Christmas Child

This year we are taking part in Operation Christmas Child. The boxes are now in church, if you want to take part. If you don't want to personally fill a box, you can donate the items into a box that will be at the back of church and we will fill it on your behalf.

Or if you want you can go to their website www.samaritans-purse.org.uk. When you are on the website, click on Shoebox online and you can donate **£20** (which includes the £5 project costs) and they will pack the shoe box for you, as it says '**PACK A SHOEBOX ONLINE**'. If you do a box this way please let Wendy Sefton know so she can add it to our total boxes.



Could you please return your boxes by Sunday 7th November.

Please look at the Sunday newsheet for the date the Shoe boxes will be collected from church

Wendy Sefton

Good news for coffee lovers

If you drink a cup of coffee a day, you could reduce your risk of having a stroke by a fifth. A recent study, by researchers at Semmelweis University in Budapest, found that people who drink a moderate amount of coffee (from half a cup to three cups a day) are 21 per cent less likely to have a stroke, as compared to people who avoid coffee completely. About 100,000 people in the UK suffer a stroke each year, and it is the fourth leading cause of death, just behind dementia, heart disease and lung cancer.

Reflected Faith Series: The Bread We Share

Last month we thought about the bread we share at the Communion table and what we do with any that is left over. Christian beliefs and thoughts about the consecrated bread range from it being a reminder to us of the love that Jesus showed for each of us by and through His death too, at the consecration the bread becomes the literal flesh of Christ that we are invited to consume. Wherever the church and the people are on that spectrum, the priest is always careful about the way the bread is handled. As we noted last month, this includes which container it is placed in to convey it after the service to those unable to attend. But what happens to any small pieces that may have been broken, like crumbs, upon the altar? Although the altar is covered with a white cloth, there is another smaller cloth placed on top of it onto which the bread and wine, in their respective containers, are placed. The bread is usually on a plate or bowl-shaped dish called a paten, with 'extra' bread kept on a side table – the Credence Table – in case more is needed to be consecrated. The smaller white cloth is called a Corporal and is typically 12 inches (30cms) square. The name comes from the Latin *corpus* meaning body, and this is folded in three in both directions (then sometimes starched) and ironed in such a way that when it is opened onto the altar all the folds are 'downward' so it forms a 'bowl' shape to catch those crumbs. After the Communion is shared, the cloth is then folded back upon itself and later taken outside the building and shaken to allow any crumbs to return to nature.

This month: Next time you are able to go to a Communion Service, watch as the priests lays up the table for the time of consecration. Perhaps, before the service, the sacristan may open the corporal and place it there. In your own home what is so precious that you try and catch every crumb? How do you do it?

St Michael's Church Christmas Tree Festival



Due to Covid last year, we had to cancel our annual Christmas Tree Festival. So this year St Michael's is again putting on a Community Christmas Tree Festival. It will run from Wednesday 24th November to Friday 26th November from 3.00pm—7.00pm and on the Saturday 27th November from 11.00am– 3.00pm, with the climax of Carols around the Christmas Trees, which is a separate event and you will need tickets for admission.

Admission to the Christmas Tree Festival is £3 Adults,

Children with a paying adult are free. There will be a visit each day from the big guy in the Red Suit and White Beard, Father Christmas.

We will be also selling 'Grand Christmas' Raffle Tickets before and on the day. There are some great prizes to be won. So don't miss out, buy your tickets £5 a book or £1 a ticket.



Activities at St Michael's Church

St Michael's Maintenance Appeal Committee

Tea & Toast in the Meeting Room

Next Tea & Toast is on 6th November & 4th December

@ 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Admission: £2.00

Carols Around the Tree

Saturday 27th November @ 5.00pm.

Tickets: £5 Adults, Children £2.50

Crafters Group

Crafters Group meets in the Meeting Room every Tuesday from 10.00am to 12noon.

Everyone welcome, especially newcomers



We so enjoyed the fireworks display, can we do it again at New Year?

If you have sometime to yourself on a Tuesday afternoon, why not tune into the VML Radio Show on HCR 92.3 FM.



The Big Sing is back in the Meeting Room every Tuesday Night at 7.00pm.

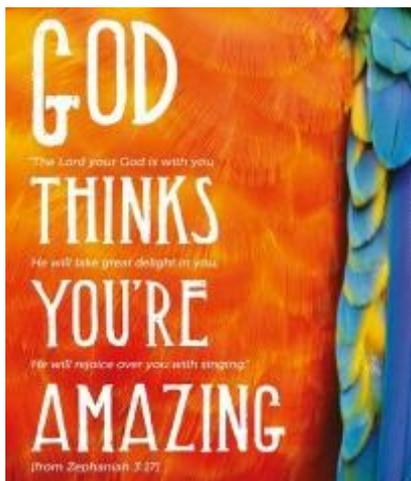


If want a good Thursday night out, why not book tickets to go and see the VML Sketch Show 3 on **Thursday 25th November @ 7.00pm**, or if you want laughter and fun, then book tickets to go and see Robbie and Darren on **Friday 26th November @ 7.00pm** both shows are on at The Brindley, Runcorn.



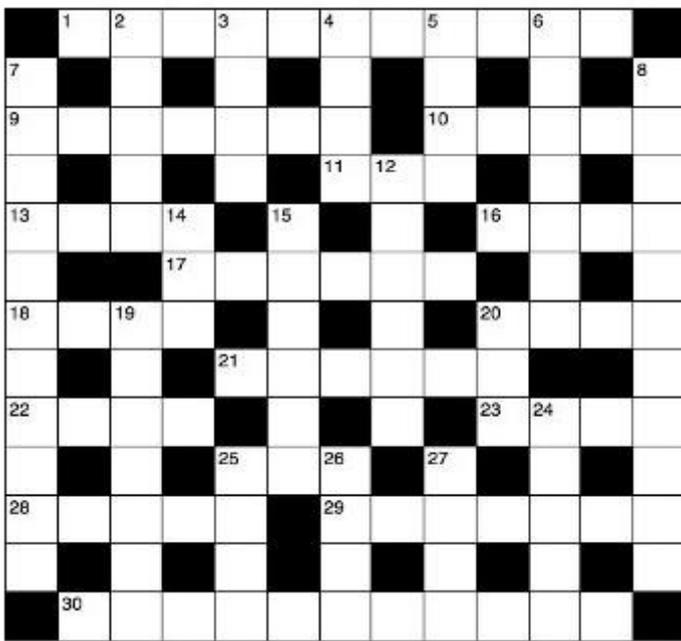
19th November: Hilda - Abbess of Whitby

Hilda played a key role in the early English Christian church, and she may even have been the first to encourage the writing of Christian poetry. She was born a princess, into the Deiran (Northumbrian) dynasty, and her sister became Queen of the East Angles, with whom the Deiran had connections. In those days East Anglia had close ties with the Gallic Church, and because of her sister, Hilda came under that influence. She was actually on her way to take her monastic vows near Paris when the Bishop of Lindisfarne, Aidan, called her back to Northumbria. Back home, she went into seclusion for a time, before being sent to be abbess of a religious house in Hartlepool in 649. Eight years later, Hilda felt moved to establish a religious community at Streasnaeshalch (later renamed Whitby). Her community was a royal establishment, a double monastery (both men and women) and became famous for its learning, with even five bishops trained there. Whitby was also, of course, the venue for the famous Synod of Whitby in 664. With Hilda acting as hostess, the Synod met to decide upon the date of Easter. The issue at stake was greater than that, though, for the decision would sway the Church in Britain to adapt either the Celtic or Roman traditions. Although Hilda defended the Celtic church customs, she accepted with grace the decision of the Synod to accept the Roman date for Easter, and she then worked to unite the Church throughout the land.



Determined to help

Half of people in the UK who are aged over 50 have cut down on the amount of meat and dairy that they eat. They want to help the environment and to reduce their carbon footprint. A recent survey by the charity Rest Less, which offers advice to older people, found that many older people “feel a huge sense of responsibility for the health of the planet and their role in reducing climate change.” The charity found that “the vast majority of mid-lifers are making changes to their own habits, from recycling more to consuming less, changing travel habits, and even giving up their car.”



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

See how you get on with this crossword. There is no prize, but whoever gets it back to the Editor by November 22nd will be entered on a Roll of Honour in the next edition of *Growing Together*.

Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
- 9 'No —, impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
- 17 'He will not always —, nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1-2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to —' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across



October Crossword answer

ROLL OF HONOUR

Two people got the crossword answer to me and they were
Wendy Sefton
 &
Jim & Shelagh Goffin

Millie's Chocolate Chip Cookies

Ingredients

62g (3ozs) butter, softened
50g (2ozs) light brown soft sugar
62g (3ozs) caster sugar
½ egg, lightly beaten
1tsp vanilla extract
110g (4ozs) self raising flour
Pinch of salt
50g (2ozs) chocolate chips



Method

Preheat the oven to **180°C, gas mark 4**. Cream butter and sugars, once creamed, combine the egg and vanilla. Sift the flour and salt, then add the chocolate chips. Roll into walnut size balls, for a more homemade look, or roll into a long, thick sausage shape and slice to make neater looking cookies. Place on ungreased baking paper. If you want to have the real Millie's experience then bake for just **7 minutes**, till the cookies are just setting—the cookies will be really doughy and delicious. Otherwise cook for **10 minutes** until just golden round the edges. Take out of the oven and leave to harden for a minute before transferring to a wire cooling rack.



Farmhouse Supper 2021



On Saturday 16th October the Maintenance Appeal Committee held its annual Farmhouse Supper. Once again the committee members and friends surpassed themselves, and provided an excellent selection of good food. Around 36 people turned up on the night and helped us to

raise the grand total of **£565**.

Also Robbie Littler provided the entertainment with a good selection of music and singing. So the committee would like to thank everyone who provided the excellent food and especially to Robbie Littler for his excellent singing and music.

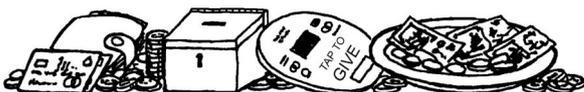


Orion

Orion soars above
His stars, like diamonds, glitter
Celestial wonder!

His wondrous belt
And sword of nascent starforms
Winter Glory!

By Nigel Beeton



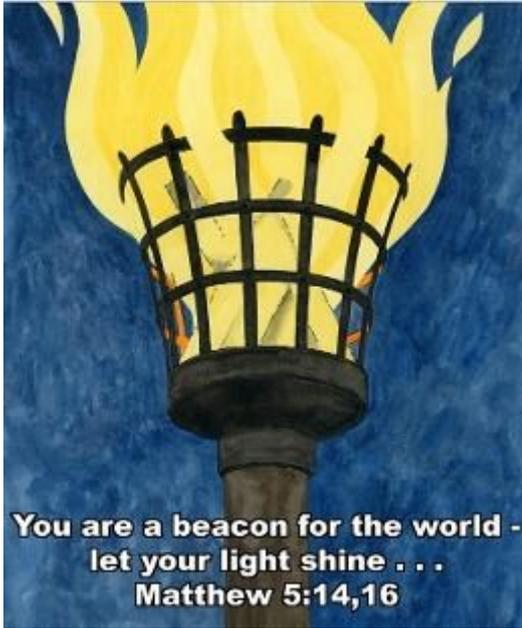
We welcomed the following into the Church Family through Baptism



We welcomed three children:
Oliver James John Chatterton (17th October), **Lettie Kay Jones, Kai Georgie Jones (31st October)**. Please pray for Oliver, Lettie and Kai, that they may grow up to love and follow Christ. Please pray for their parents and Godparents, and pray that they may seek to know Christ and to worship regularly.



November
2021



INFORMATION

Vicar

Revd Karen Brady

01928 831795

Mobile: 07419820864

e-mail: revkarenbrady@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Chris Challoner 01928 715830

Rosemary Lunt 01928 569863

e-mail: warden@runcornstmichaels.org.uk

If you want to book
a wedding, baptism or funeral
please phone this number

07722470940

and ask for Robbie

First Communion

My three-year-old niece, Kelly, went with a neighbour's little girl to church for her First Communion practice. The minister had the children cup their hands, and then went solemnly down the line, giving each child a piece of bread, and intoning: "God be with you". Apparently, this made quite an impression on my niece. She came home and told her mother to cup her hands and bend down. Kelly took a piece of bread from her sandwich, placed it in her mother's hands, and whispered, in her most angelic voice, "God will get you."



Please Pray



Please remember the following people in your prayers throughout this month.

José Colley

Liz Adams

Graham & Nicola Aylett

Norah Gamon

Also please remember in your prayers anyone that you know who is at home or in hospital.

If you would like us to pray for someone close to you please let the Vicar know. Or if you would like the Pastoral Care Team to visit someone at home don't hesitate to let them know.

....and the recently bereaved, especially any families known to you

Jamie Grimwood

Gillian Armstrong



* Time * Talent * Treasure

God bestows on us Time, Talents and Treasure. God reveals many blessings and opportunities in our lives, but there are many challenges too.

This Community needs this Church!
This Church needs you!
Can you 'give back to God' and help St Michael's Church with some of your time, talents and treasure?



Is it hard to park your car in the garage?

It is not your fault: the bestselling modern cars have become bigger by about up to a third. A comparison of the most popular models sold in 1965 and 2020 had found that most popular modern models have expanded from 59 inches (1.5m) in width to 71 inches (1.8m) in width. Their length has gone from 153.5 inches (3.9m) to 169 inches (4.3m). The most popular 2020 model, the Ford Fiesta, has a width of 66 inches (1.7m). Yet the average garage door is still only 82 inches wide (2.1m), often leaving just six inches (15cm) each side of the vehicle.